

Serial No. 10/509,969
Art Unit 2622

Docket No. PU020085
Customer No. 24498

REMARKS

In response to the rejection mailed June 1, 2010 Finally Rejecting claims 1-24, applicants request they be allowed to amend claims 1, 2, 8, and 15 as well as to cancel claims 3-6 and 12-14. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 7-11 and 15-24 remain pending in this application.

Before proceeding to address the outstanding rejections, applicants will briefly summarize their invention to assist the examiner in better appreciating the differences between applicants' invention and the art of record. As recited in amended claim 1, applicant provide a processing apparatus that includes a first module having a controller coupled to a signal processor having a signal processing characteristic selected from a plurality signal processing characteristics stored in a non-volatile memory. A second module couples to the first module. The second module has at least one personality pin that carries carrying a logical potential which provides a unique identification of the second module to the first module. In this way, the controller can select, in accordance with the logical potential on the personality pin, a signal processing characteristic for the signal processor.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection of Claims 1-24

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,188,381, to van der Wahl et al. in view of US Published Patent Application No. 2006/0026637 to Gatto et al. and US Published Patent Application No. 2002/0008779 to Ju et al. Applicants traverse the rejection in view of the amendments with regard to claims 1 and 15 and the remarks below.

The van der Wahl et al. patent discloses a pipe-line processing system that includes a processing motherboard (PM 10) coupled via a global video bus (GVB 30) and a global control bus (GCB 40) to one or more video processing modules (VPMs 20) that each perform a dedicated video processing operation.

As discusses in their previously responses, applicants assert that van der Wahl et al. contains no teaching or suggestion that the motherboard (PM 10)

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detects or determines an input-output characteristic of the video processing module (VPM 20), let alone that the motherboard (PM 10) selects a processing scheme in accordance with such input-output characteristic.

However, to better distinguish their invention from the art of record, applicants have amended claim 1 to now recite that the second module has at least one personality pin carrying a logical potential which provides a unique identification of the second module to the first module. In this way, the controller on the first module can determine the potential on the personality pin of the second module to characterize the second module. Thus, the controller does not need any *prior* knowledge of the second module in order to determine its characteristics.

The primary reference relied upon by the examiner (van der Wahl et al.) says nothing regarding a personality pin on the second module, let alone, any discussion regarding a logical potential on such a pin that identifies the second module.

With regard to previously pending claim 3 (now cancelled) which recited the personality pin, the examiner admits that van der Wahl et al. says nothing about a personality pin. However, with regard to van der Wahl et al., the examiner states the following:

van Der Wahl does not specifically disclose the components of the system including a personality pin, coupling characteristic, LUT measurement/comparison, or field programmable gate array. digital signal processor's which control for display a variety of video processor motherboards 20 utilizing the global control bus 40 and the global video bus 30. Thus it would have been obvious to use active and/or passive circuitry in the design of the modular parallel-pipelined vision system, since the designer has to active/passive components which are available off the shelf. The detection/determination of modules based upon a node potential, coupling characteristic, or LUT measurement/comparison which provides the designer available methods/devices in monitoring/detection controlling the system.

Applicants question how the examiner can suggest that it would have been obvious to make use of a personality pin, let alone a personality pin carrying an identifying logical potential, in view of the complete absence of any such disclosure in van der Wahl. At best, the van der Wahl et al. patent discloses that each Video Processing Daughter (VPD)

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board (22-28) has a hard wired code as part of its board connector which identifies its type and revision of level. (See Col. 15, lines 12-15). This disclosure in van der Wahl et al. would not provide any suggestion as using a particular pin of that connector to carry a logical potential that identifies the daughter board.

The secondary references cited by the examiner, (Gatto et al and Ju et al.) contain no disclosure whatsoever of a personality pin. Indeed, the examiner has not relied upon these references for any such teaching. The only reference (van der Wahl) examiner relied upon admittedly does not contain any disclosure whatsoever of a personality pin that carries an identifying logical potential. Therefore, only by the use of impermissible hindsight applicants' own disclosure can the examiner suggest the use of a personality pin carrying an identifying logical potential, as recited in claims 1 and 15, and the claims that depend therefrom.

Given that none of the references relied by the examiner teach or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 15, and the claims that depend therefrom, these claims patentably distinguish over the art of record. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 15, and the claims that depend therefrom.

As written, claim 21 distinguishes over the cited art. Claim 21 recites the following features:

enabling access to at least a predetermined one of said plurality of signal processing characteristics, all remaining ones of said plurality of signal processing characteristics being non-accessible,

subsequent to said storing and enabling steps, said signal processing apparatus being operable only with said at least predetermined one of said plurality of signal processing characteristics.

None of the cited references recites these features of applicants' claim 21.

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In rejecting claim 21, the examiner relies on the following language in the abstract of van der Wahl et al:

“A hardware control library loaded on the processing module provides an application programming interface including high level C-callable functions which allow programming of the video hardware as components are added and subtracted from the video processing system for different applications.”

This language in the van der Wahl et al. patent regarding the addition and deletion of software does not teach or suggest applicants' claimed feature of making only certain signal processing characteristics of a set of signal processing characteristics available.

The examiner should appreciate that the statement in the van der Wahl et patent about the ability to add and subtract software contains no suggestion as to the desirability of restricting access to all available signal processing characteristics as recited in claim 21. All of the software existing in the program library of van der Wahl remains available without restriction. In contrast, applicants' claim 21 limits the available signal processing characteristics. Thus, as recited in claim 21, processing characteristics exist which remain non-accessible.

Enabling access to a sub-set of available signal characteristics constitutes an entirely different concept than removing them all together so no access exists at all as disclosed in van der Wahl et al. Indeed, the disclosure in van der Wahl et al. would actually teach away from selective disablement as suggested by the examiner in connection with parental control systems.

The Gatto et al. and Ju et al. references relied upon by the examiner fail to overcome this deficiency of van der Wahl et al. Neither Gatto et al. nor Ju et al. disclosure or in any way suggest applicants' claimed feature of limiting access to only a subset of signal processing characteristics. Therefore, the combination of van der Wahl, Gatto et al and Ju et al. would not teach all of the features of applicants' claim 21 and the claims that depend therefrom. Applicants request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 21-24.

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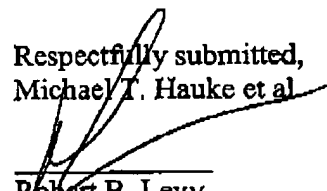
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants solicit entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner cannot take such action, the Examiner should contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820 to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview.

No fees are believed due with regard to this Amendment. Please charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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